Outlook Calendar Guidance
Scheduling Out of Office Time

**CHILD CARE**
State Capacity Building Center

Adding Out of Office to Capacity Building Center Main Calendar

The following guidance was created to provide assistance with using the calendar associated with the CapacityBuildingCenter mailbox as a mechanism for tracking when SCBC staff anticipate being out of the office. All out-of-office time should be tracked in this manner, whether it is for Paid Time Off (PTO), Executive Leave (EL), or for an anticipated onsite TA event, national meeting, etc. Please note that the CapacityBuildingCenter Calendar has replaced the portal calendar as a means for tracking schedules and should be used in addition to your own personal Outlook calendar. Making this information available in a central repository allows for more accurate projection of project expenditures.
The mailbox for the SCBC is accessible from CapacityBuildingCenter@icfi.com or through the Outlook global address book.

Follow the steps below to properly utilize the CapacityBuildingCenter calendar for scheduling any time out of the office:

1) Using your personal Outlook calendar, navigate to the **New Meeting** icon located in the calendar section of Outlook. Once you have clicked the icon, enter the time and dates of your anticipated out-of-office event. For consistency, the subject line should include your name and either PTO or a brief description of the off-site event name. (For example – Tracy – PTO or Barbara – Maine TA Onsite Visit.)
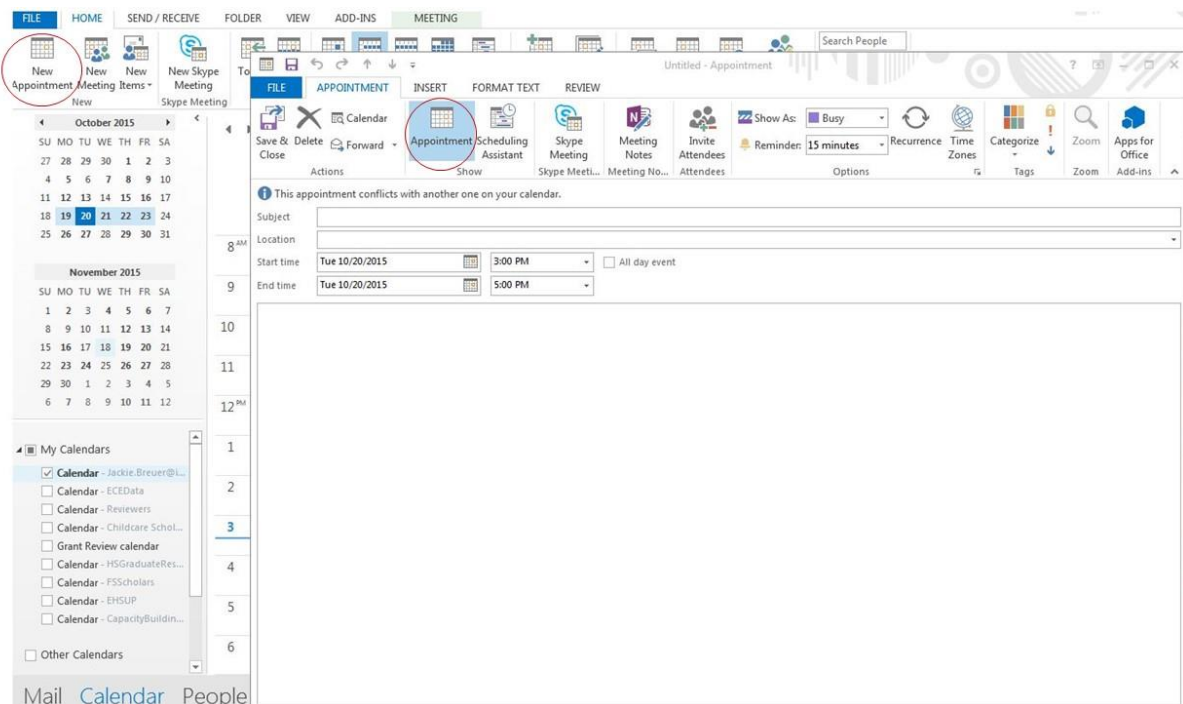

2) Once you have created the calendar event and populated the fields to indicate the dates and times of your event, fill the body of the calendar event with the total anticipated out-of-office hours for PTO or EL.
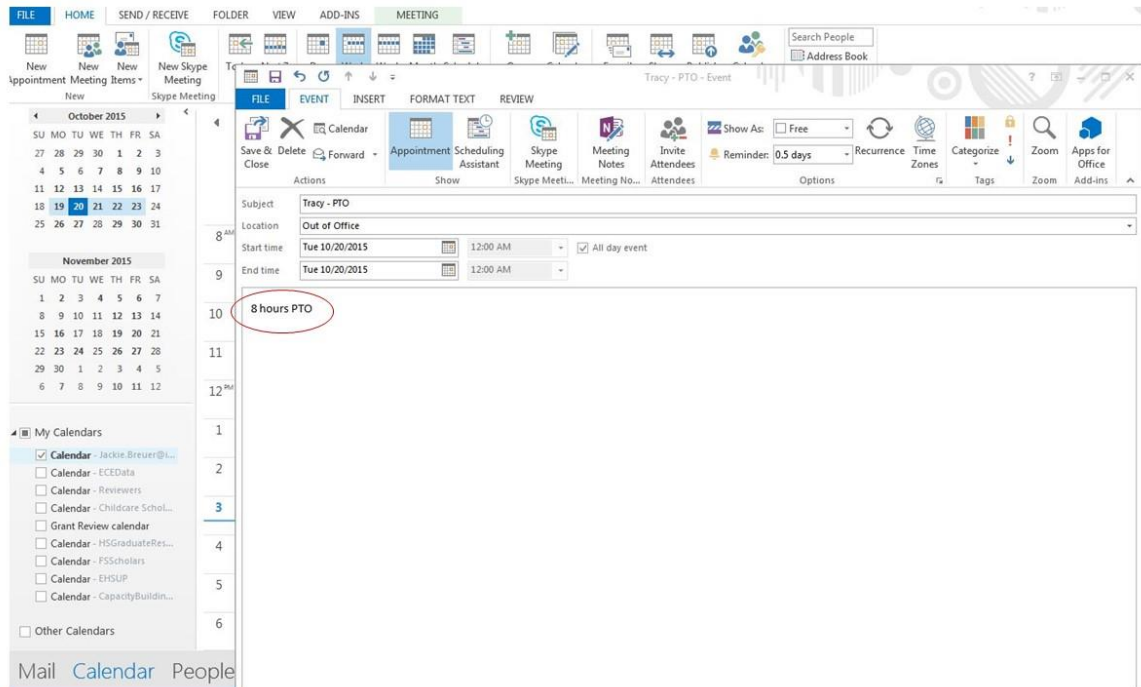
3) Alternatively, if you will be out of office on a work-related matter, simply include a short description of the event name; **do not include the anticipated out-of-office hours.**

Note: Only include number of hours out of office for PTO or EL. Do not fill the body of the email with anticipated out-of-office hours for site visits or other external meetings during which you will be working. Simply indicate that you are out of office at an external meeting or delivering TA to a State or Territory and include details of the event.
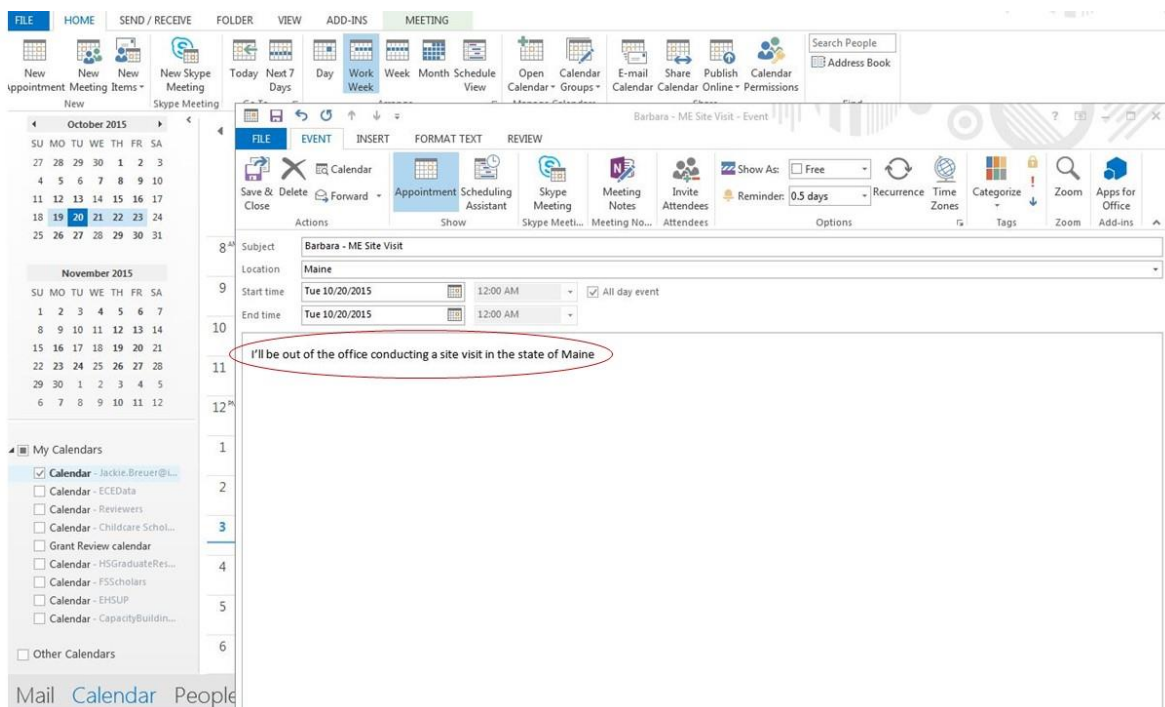
4) Once you have completed filling in the details of your anticipated out-of-office event, you will then click on the **Invite Attendees** button. Here, you will click on the **To** button and then search for CapacityBuildingCenter from the Global Address Book.

Tip: **Please remember that the CapacityBuildingCenter is an email address and is different from the familiar SCBC Distribution List.** *Please exercise caution as the two can be easily confused.*
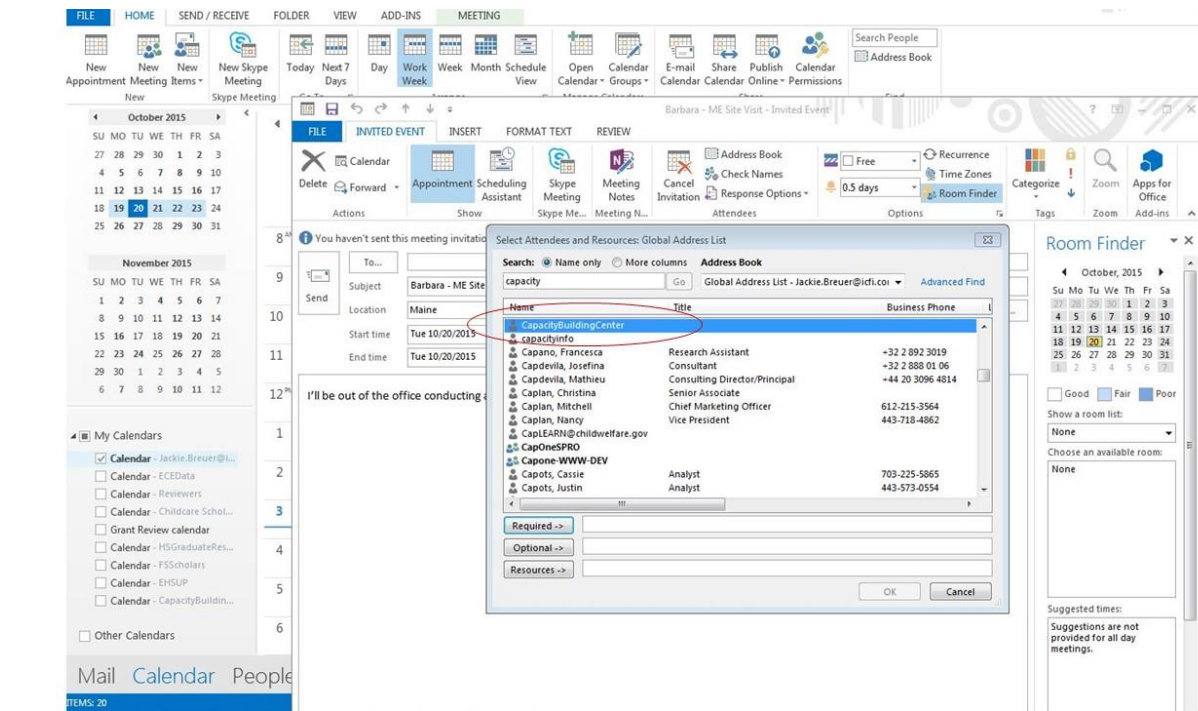
5) Once you have the CapacityBuildingCenter address listed in your **To** box and all of the out-of-office details are entered and correct, click **Send**. The Information Services staff will monitor the CapacityBuildingCenter Inbox and will attempt to accept these "invites" within a 24-hour period. Once the invite is accepted, the event will show on both your personal Outlook calendar as well as the CapacityBuildingCenter calendar.

Note: If you need to make modifications to an anticipated out-of-office event, open the item on your Outlook calendar, make the changes, and click on **Send Update**.

## Using "Show As" to Provide Additional Information to Calendar Events

Outlook offers the options of selecting how you want items to show up on your calendar. On the drop-down bar in the **Options** section, you can select from the following options:
Free – when others view your calendar, this item will not appear unless you have chosen to share details of your calendar. This can be used for reminders without having the time appear as busy.
Busy – indicates that you are unavailable during this time.
Tentative – appears as a dashed line or grayed out event, indicating that you *may* be available.
*Out of Office* –indicates that you have something personal or business-related scheduled that will take you away from your office during that time.
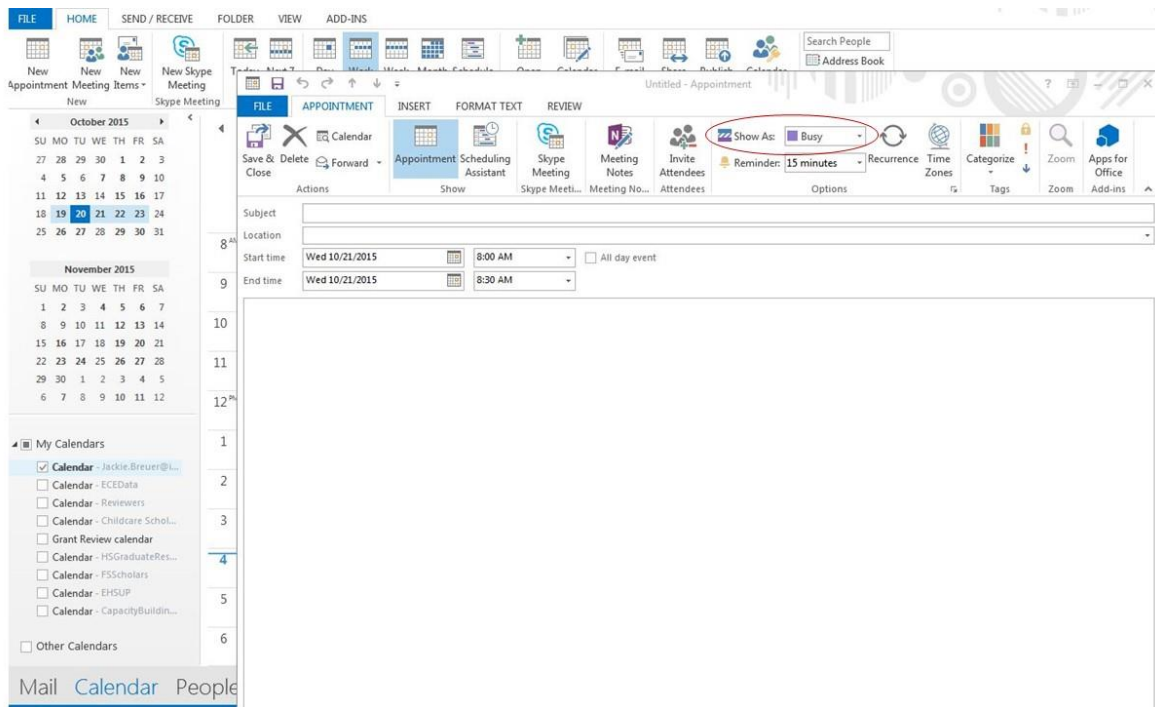
6) To assist with efficient scheduling, you should ensure that your calendar permissions are set to reflect your free/busy time. That is, others can see whether you are free or busy, but do not see the details of your schedule—*this should be the default.*

Sharing Your Calendar with Others

To set permissions, go to the Calendar view in Outlook and from the **Home** tab, click on **Calendar Permissions**. Choose **Default** and click on **Free/Busy Time.**
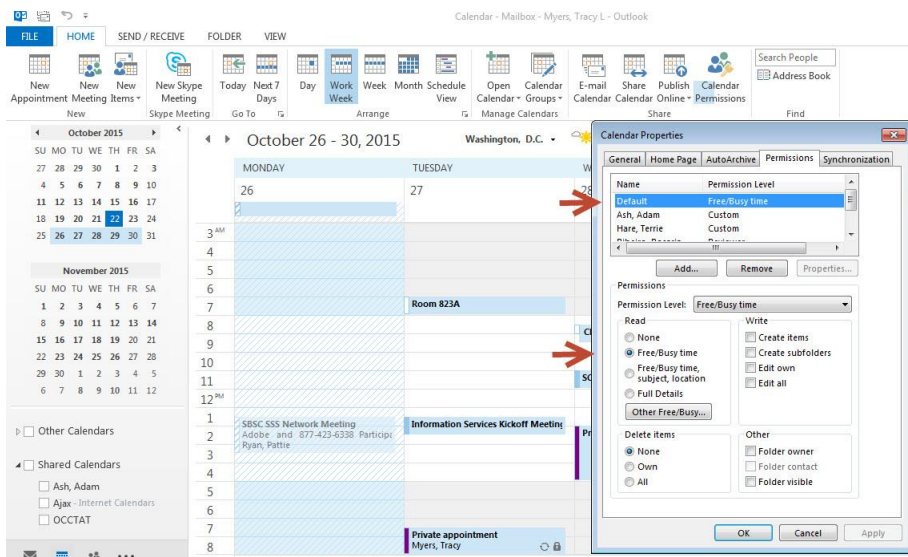
On occasion, there may be individuals with whom you want to share the details of your calendar (e.g., supervisor). To do so, from the **Calendar** view, click on **Calendar Permissions**. Select the **name of the individual** with whom you are sharing, and then click **Full Details**.
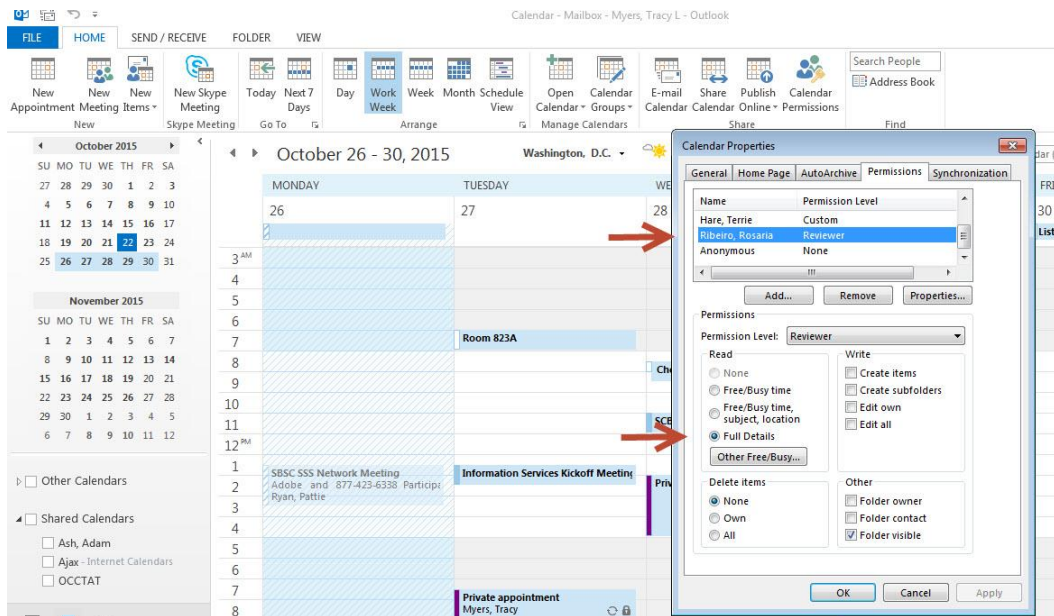
Once you have shared your calendar, you can view yours or others' simultaneously. From the **Calendar** view, click on the additional calendar(s) you would like to view. This is in the **My Calendar** area at the bottom left-hand of the screen. You will then be able to view your calendar alongside another.